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Dorset Housing Needs Evidence Report

Dorset is under threat from excessive house building

Dear Dorset CPRE,

An independent report for Dorset CPRE shows that the Dorset Council and BCP Council could be forced to plan for excessive numbers of new housing.

The Government's Standard Method for assessing local housing need produces a figure of 4,458 dwellings per annum for Dorset, which is **47% higher** than the 3,030 new houses required by the existing Local Plans and nearly **100% higher** than recent rates of housing delivery.

Now, the Government's Planning White Paper and proposed Planning reforms threaten Dorset with even higher, centrally-imposed housing numbers, while greatly reducing local people's say in the future of our communities.

Key Findings

- Central government's housing targets, using 2014 projections, are **47% higher** than the existing Local Plans in Dorset.
- The government's housing targets are **way in excess** of any sensible forecast of **local housing need**.
- The report proposes that the local authorities should be prepared to **challenge the Government's Standard Method** based on outdated and flawed population and household projections.
- **Local authorities** should encourage the development of **suitable affordable housing for younger households**.

Dorset CPRE supports a locally led democratic planning system rather than deregulated proposals.

Find out more and download the report

truth is the opposite.

Locally-led development offers the best outcomes for people and nature. It can ensure that the right development is in the right place, and creates places where people actually want to live. The [recently announced reforms](#) will only serve to undermine local voices, by preventing communities from managing their own places/neighbourhoods and as we've seen before, result in environments that don't work for the people that live there.

Key Concerns

- The White Paper is a Charter for **unnecessary overdevelopment** in Dorset with **significantly higher numbers** than are needed.
- There is a **significant loss of local democracy** and a **reduction of the public involvement** in the planning process - Dorset Council need to **Stand up for Dorset** rather than give in to demands from Westminster.
- The White Paper proposals do **not guarantee adequate protection** for the precious environment of Dorset and in fact **are a threat**.

We are responding to both the **Changes to the Planning System** (deadline 1st October) and the **White Paper** consultations (by 29th October) and will issue further e-news during the consultation period to late October, and over the coming months. The National CPRE have made [an initial response](#) to the White Paper and have **convened meetings with more than 30 organisations to join forces** and build momentum to oppose the government's White Paper. Organisations included Shelter, the Town and Country Planning Association and the Local Government Association, as well as environmental NGOs such as Friends of the Earth.

We encourage everyone who cares about Dorset's future, including town and parish councils and local societies, to [join Dorset CPRE](#) and support our vital work to shape the planning system and secure the best future for our countryside and communities.

With best wishes,

Peter Bowyer
Chair of Trustees
info@dorset-cpre.org.uk

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